

REMARKS

Claim 5 was objected to due to formalities. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takenaka et al (US 5,429,482). Claims 1, 4, 5, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kimura et al. (US 5,626,463). Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either Takenaka et al. or Kimura et al. Claims 3 and 6 to 13 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The specification title has been amended.

Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended.

Claims 16 to 23 have been added.

Reconsideration of the application based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.

Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takenaka et al (US 5,429,482).

Claim 1 now incorporates the limitation of allowable claim 3.

Withdrawal of the rejection of the claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kimura et al.

Claim 1 now incorporates the limitation of allowable claim 3.

Withdrawal of the rejection of the claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either Takenaka et al or Kimura et al.

Claim 1 now incorporates the limitation of allowable claim 3.

Withdrawal of the rejection of the claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3 and 6 to 13 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 3 has been canceled and the limitations of claim 3 have been added to the base claim 1 in independent form.

Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 16 including all of the limitations of the base claim 1.

In light of the above, withdrawal of the objections to claims 3 and 6 to 13 is respectfully requested.

New Claims

Claims 16 to 23 have been added. These claims correspond to claims 6 to 13, rewriting previously allowable claim 6 in independent form.

It is respectfully requested that these claims are patentable.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

If any additional fees are deemed to be due at this time, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Respectfully submitted,

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